

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present communication is filed in response to the Official Action dated August 4, 2005 finally rejecting all the claims, namely claims 1, 2, 4-17, 19 and 21-33, pending the application ("Final Rejection"). A three-month extension of the term to respond, up to and including February 4, 2006, is filed concurrently herewith. Applicants are also filing a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) herewith pursuant to 37 CFR §1.114.

In view of the Final Rejection and the manner in which the Examiner applied the references to the claims, applicant has amended the claims to improve their form and enhance their clarity with respect to the claimed invention.

The preamble of claim 1 has been amended to now recite "An electronically readable name tag for labeling a device." The claim has been further amended to recite "a memory for storing a user assignable name for labeling the device, the user assignable name being displayed on an exterior surface of the name tag; and an interface for connecting the name tag to the device, the interface being adapted to allow the user assignable name to be visible when the name tag is connected to the device and wherein when the interface is connected to the device, the user assignable name is read from the memory by the device and utilized by the device in communications across a network." Support for the foregoing amendments may be found by reference to, for example, paragraphs [0018] and [0021] of the specification. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that no new matter is being added to the application by the amendments to claim 1.

Claim 14 has been amended to recite "storing a user assignable name in an electronically addressable tag; affixing the electronically addressable tag to a surface of the device such that the user assignable name is visibly apparent;

establishing an electronic connection between the device and the electronically addressable tag; loading the user assignable name stored in the electronically addressable tag into the device via the established electronic connection." Support for the foregoing amendments may be found by reference to, for example, paragraphs [0018] and [0021] of the specification. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that no new matter is being added to the application by the amendments to claim 14.

Claim 22 has been amended to recite "affixing the tag to a first device from among the one or more devices such that the user assignable name is visually apparent on the first device; downloading the user assignable name from the tag to the first device through an electronic connection between the tag and first device; and utilizing the user assignable name to configure the first device for communications across the network." Support for the foregoing amendments may be found by reference to, for example, paragraphs [0018] and [0021] of the specification. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that no new matter is being added to the application by the amendments to claim 22.

Claims 2, 4-13, 15-17, 19, 21, 23 and 28-33, all of which directly or indirectly depend from either independent claim 1, 14 or 22, have been amended to improve their form in view of the amendments to the independent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added to the application by the amendments to those claims.

Claims 34 through 36 are presented for the first time. Claim 34, like claim 1, is directed to an electronically addressable name tag. The name tag comprises "a memory for storing a user assignable name and a unique identifier associated with a first device of the one or more addressable devices; and a connector for removably connecting the name tag to the first device, the device being adapted to accommodate the

name tag such that the user assignable name is visibly displayed when the name tag is connected to the first device, and wherein the user assignable name is read from the memory by the first device and used to configure the first device for communications over the network."

Claim 35 depends from claim 34 and recites "wherein the first device uses the user assignable name and unique identifier to configure the first device for communications over the network."

Claim 36 also depends from claim 34 and recites as an additional feature "a second device, the name tag being removed from the first device and connected to the second device and wherein the user assignable name is read from the memory by the second device and used to configure the second device for communications over the network."

Support for claims 34-36 may be found by reference to, for example, paragraphs [0007] and [0018] of the specification. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that these claims do not add new matter to the application.

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner rejected the claims as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0001012 to Bermudez ("Bermudez").

In one embodiment, applicant describes an "improved method of addressing devices in a network." (Specification, para. [0007].) In accordance with this embodiment, an electronically readable name tag is plugged into a device on the network. The tag includes a memory that contains a name that the user has assigned to a device. (*Id.*) The tag, when plugged into the device, allows data stored in the tag's memory, such as the user assigned name, to be read by the device. (*Id.*, paras. [0016] and [0017].) The device then uses the user assigned name when configuring the device for communications over the network. (*Id.*, para. [0007].) Thus, to "rename devices, for example when

they are physically moved, it is only necessary to move the name tags." (*Id.*)

Although pertinent, *Bermudez* does not disclose or suggest the foregoing features or the claimed invention. *Bermudez* is generally directed to a labeling system for "accurately labeling components of a device." (*Bermudez*, para. 1.) *Bermudez* describes a network or MAC card as one such component. *Bermudez* recognizes that the prior art method of printing labels "in large numbers, and then simply dropp[ing them] inside the shipping container in which the network cards are sent to the laptop manufacturer" usually leads to errors. (*Id.*, para. 3.)

Bermudez solves the prior art problem by printing two labels (110, 112) with the unique identifiers of the network cards, e.g., the MAC addresses, and affixing those labels to "a container, such as electrostatic discharge (ESD) bag 114, into which the network card 102, will be inserted for shipping, and from which the network card 102 will later be removed for installation in a computer." (*Id.*, para. 12.) The manufacturer of a device, such as a laptop computer 300, installs the network card in a slot on the interior of the laptop, removes the first label 110 from the ESD bag 114 and pastes it on the exterior of the laptop 300. (*Id.*, para. 16.) The second label 112 is removed from the ESD bag and affixed to the exterior of the shipping container or ESD bag. (*Id.*)

Bermudez, however, does not disclose that the MAC address or unique identifiers printed on the labels are downloaded or read from the labels by the laptop or device through a connection between the label and the device. Instead, *Bermudez* discloses that "the end user can read the MAC number directly from the exterior of the packing container and enter it into the proper databases or routing tables, so that the laptop will function with the network once installed." (*Id.*, para.

16.) *Bermudez*, therefore, still requires the user to be part of the process. Indeed, *Bermudez's* method is recognized by applicant's disclosure as a prior art problem, to wit: "The current procedures for address administration as described above may cause difficulties, particularly for users who are not adept at computer operations. This is especially likely true in a home or small business environment. The user operations necessary to assign and distribute the device names are difficult ones." (Specification, para. [0005].)

In contrast to *Bermudez*, claim 1 recites "wherein when the interface is connected to the device, the user assignable name is read from the memory by the device and utilized by the device in communications across a network." Claim 14 recites "loading the user assignable name stored in the electronically addressable tag into the device via the established electronic connection." Claim 22 recites "downloading the user assignable name from the tag to the first device through an electronic connection between the tag and first device."

Applicant respectfully submits that *Bermudez* neither discloses nor suggests the quoted limitations of claim 1, 14 or 22. In particular, when *Bermudez* attaches his label to a laptop or inserts a MAC card into the laptop, *Bermudez* does not disclose that the laptop or MAC card reads or downloads any information from the label. Instead, *Bermudez* still requires "the end user [to] read the MAC number directly from the exterior of the packing container and enter it into the proper databases or routing tables, so that the laptop will function with the network once installed." (*Bermudez*, para. 16; see also para. 3.)

Claim 34 is also not anticipated or rendered obvious by the *Bermudez* as it recites "wherein the user assignable name is read from the memory by the first device and used to configure the first device for communications over the network."

Claims 1, 14, 22 and 34 are therefore not anticipated by *Bermudez* for at least the foregoing reasons. In addition, applicant further respectfully submits that the other reference (MicroSoft 2000 Professional Unleashed) cited by the Examiner does not make up for this deficiency in *Bermudez*. Therefore, the cited references cannot be combined so as to render these claims obvious.

Further in this regard, as all the other claims pending in the application depend from either claim 1, 14, 22 or 34, the dependent claims are also not anticipated by *Bermudez*. In addition, *Bermudez* and the Microsoft reference cannot be combined so as to render any of the claims obvious.

In rejecting claims 28-33, the Examiner also asserted that *Bermudez* discloses the feature of transferring the user assignable name to another device on the network by moving and connecting the name tag to that device. In particular, in rejecting claims 31 and 33, the Examiner stated that "it is inherent that if the network card is removed from a current laptop and inserted in another (the 'second network device'), the external label (the tag) must also be removed and replaced on the other laptop." (Official Action at 5.) Applicant respectfully submits, however, that because *Bermudez* requires both the tag and network card to be moved to the next device, *Bermudez* does not anticipate these claims for this additional reason.

In particular, claim 28 recites that when the name tag is moved to another device "the user assignable name is loaded into the another device and utilized by the another device for communications across the network." *Bermudez*, as noted by the Examiner, requires that both the label and network card be moved in order for another laptop to use the MAC address on the label. Moreover, since *Bermudez* requires the user to reconfigure the databases or setup the appropriate routing tables each time a

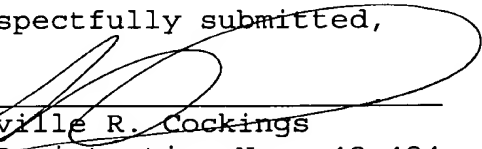
component or MAC card is moved, applicant respectfully submits that this feature is in no way inherent or intrinsic to *Bermudez*. (See *Bermudez*, para. 16; see also para. 3.) Therefore, claims 29 through 33 and 36 are also not anticipated by *Bermudez* for at least this additional reason. Applicant also respectfully submits that the cited references cannot be combined so as to render these claims obvious.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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